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**Coconino County  
Attorney's Office**

## **GENISIS-X and Coconino County Attorney Partner to Present Restoration of Rights Workshop**

The workshop will provide valuable information to people with past convictions who want to have their civil rights restored.

**Flagstaff, Arizona:** The right to vote...the right to serve as a juror...the right to hold public office...these are all civil rights we share as U.S. citizens, but not if you have been convicted of a felony. A felony conviction suspends these rights, as well as the right to possess a firearm.

Arizona statutes allow persons with non-violent felony convictions who have successfully completed their probation or parole to apply to the Superior Court of Arizona to have their civil rights restored. Navigating the application process can be difficult, so GENISIS-X and Coconino County Attorney, David Rozema have teamed up to provide a workshop for convicted felons seeking restoration of their civil rights.

"Felony convictions often impede one's successful reintegration back into society even when there have been no new arrests for many years. Restoring one's rights, in appropriate cases, can assist this process in many ways, including enhancing the potential for employment. We're glad to partner on this important workshop", said Coconino County Attorney David Rozema.

The Restoration of Rights Workshop will take place on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 1:00pm at St. Pius X Center at 2257 East Cedar Avenue. The workshop will include a panel presentation of the restoration process. The panel will include County Attorney David Rozema, Legal Defender Gary Pearlmutter and Deputy Public Defender Fanny Steinlage. Following the presentation, panel members and volunteers will be available to answer questions and assist with applications.

"Restoration of rights is an important step to gaining a sustainable job and reinstating some medical licenses. We encourage all GENISIS-X clients and anyone with a past felony to attend this workshop to learn how to restore their rights," said Jennifer Dufresne, GENISIS-X Program Manager.

GENISIS-X is a neighborhood re-entry initiative for people who have past convictions (excluding sexual offense convictions) and want to build a new life. Targeting the greater Flagstaff area, including part of Coconino County, the program staff help participants overcome barriers from past convictions and successfully reintegrate into the community. GENISIS-X is a program of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association and the Southside Community Association with funding from the U.S. Dept. of Justice/Weed & Seed, the

2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program, , Coconino County District II and the United Way of Northern Arizona.

For more information about the Restoration of Rights Workshop or the GENISIS-X program, contact Jennifer Dufresne at 928-214-1048.

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